

Lafayette's [WLFI Channel 18](#) came to a meeting between Congressman Mike Pence and Lafayette Commerce in the nation's Capitol yesterday. Below is WLFI's article.

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to watch the interview.

Commerce group meets with Pence

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WASHINGTON, D. C. (WLFI) - Members of the Lafayette Delegation met with Congressman Mike Pence late in their day Wednesday, and the underlying message was jobs, jobs, jobs, and how the congressman is going to help Indiana and Tippecanoe County in that area.

Jobs, it was the topic on everyone in Congressman Mike Pence's office Wednesday afternoon.

The group of 30 area representatives continued to ask the congressman how he was going to help Indiana in that area, from his post in Washington.

"There are several things that Congress can do today that would lessen the burden on businesses small and large to invite investment into places like Tippecanoe County," said Congressman Pence.

With a highway bill set to be heard before Congress next week, the conversation soon ran to transportation and infrastructure.

Many in the group are hoping to see continued funding for transportation in order to continue to bring jobs to Indiana, and ensure Hoosiers are getting their fair share of federal funding.

"It was helpful to hear from the leaders in Tippecanoe County about the importance of communities of that size being able to apply for federal funding under the highway bill, and I'll be working with my Indiana colleagues in the days ahead," said Congressman Pence.

"You know, the transportation issue, clearly, it needs to be worked through some more and thought through a different format. I think a lot of people concur, in fact, even in our community group, a lot of people concur that just increasing the federal gas tax is not the way to go," said Joe Seaman, CEO of Greater Lafayette Commerce.

Ivy Tech Chancellor David Bathe offered something he feels could be a hindrance to job growth in the state.

Compared to other states a larger number of Hoosiers are under-educated, causing a blockade to future companies hoping to invest., but Bathe feels the government could help in that area too.

"We certainly are out of funding to hire more faculty to expand programs. So the challenge before us, and the challenge before the state is ultimately to expand the workforce through expanding the educational base," said Bathe.

"To me, the principle is that Washington D.C. ought to be providing resources for education, for vocational education, but not red tape. And the state of Indiana, the people of Indiana ought to have the ability to innovate and reform those programs," said Congressman Pence.

Thursday, the group will meet with Senators Coats and Lugar, and Congressman Rokita. Look for those reports on NewsChannel 18 at 5,6, and 11.



[Click here](#) to view some photos from the meeting.